

Donations and Legacy Giving

In undertaking its mission to protect farmland in Nova Scotia, the AVFLT requires funds for the following:

- Conservation easement acquisition (costs associated with easement acquisition including survey work, baseline condition reports, and valuations).
- Conservation easement monitoring costs, and conservation easement enforcement expenses, (if required).
- General operations (general administrative costs of our volunteer organization).

The AVFLT allocates funds for its expenses incurred for each conservation easement acquisition and for each conservation easement's monitoring costs and potential enforcement expenses. When making a donation, if you wish, you can direct that your donation be specifically allocated to any category of our expenses, any individual conservation easement, any conservation easement in a specific geographic area, or any other aspect of our mission.

The AVFLT has been considering the establishment of an Endowment Fund. An Endowment Fund would be a pool of donations that are invested to provide AVFLT with an ongoing source of income for a specified or general purpose. For instance, the purpose of our Endowment Fund could be to pay costs associated with either or both the acquisition, or the monitoring and enforcement of conservation easements. The capital amount donated to the Endowment Fund would remain untouched; with only the investment income being used for the purpose of the Endowment Fund. This means that gifts to the Endowment Fund would continue to provide an annual stream of income to protect agricultural and associated lands. and enable the work of the AVFLT to continue.

For an Endowment Fund to be meaningful it requires a significant amount of funding. Endowment Funds are often initiated by someone (or a number of people) providing a significant donation to start an Endowment Fund. If you wish to discuss the establishment of an Endowment Fund please reach out to our contact person noted below.

Legacy Giving

Other ways of assisting, include joining a community of donors who are making protection of agricultural and associated lands part of their lasting legacy. There are several ways to leave a legacy gift to the AVFLT.

A Gift in your Will or Trust

Leaving a set dollar amount, a gift of securities, a specific percentage or portion of your estate, or a specified percentage or portion of the residue of your estate to the AVFLT will ensure that Nova Scotia agricultural and associated lands continue to be protected for future generations.

If you have already named AVFLT as a beneficiary in your Will or Trust, please let us know so we can thank you and include you in our Legacy Circle.

Your gift can be left unrestricted so we can utilize your funds in the best way possible, given operational needs at the time. Alternatively, you can restrict your gift to certain projects or purposes (for example for an easement within a specific area, or even a specific easement) or the conservation easement acquisition or monitoring and defense costs referred to above.

You can also stipulate that the funds be directed to an existing Endowment Fund or the establishment of a new Endowment Fund.

If a gift in your Will or Trust is for a specific purpose, it is strongly recommended that a “Power to Vary” clause (see below) be included. Without this clause, if our projects or operating systems change, we may not be able to use your generous gift.

Here is a sample *Power to Vary* clause:

‘If, in the opinion of the Board of Directors of the Annapolis Valley Farmland Trust Society, it should become impossible, inadvisable, or impractical to use this gift for the special purpose(s) specified by the donor, then the Board of Directors may in its discretion use the gift to the best advantage of the Annapolis Valley Farmland Trust Society, keeping in mind the original wishes of the donor and keeping as close as possible to the spirit and general intent of the gift, while respecting the priorities of the Annapolis Valley Farmland Trust Society.’

Please ensure you use our full legal name and charitable registration number in your Will or Trust:

Our full legal name is: Annapolis Valley Farmland Trust Society

Our Charitable Registration number is: 89656 8417 RR0001

Designate AVFLT as Beneficiary of your RRSP or RRIF or Foreign Retirement Account

By naming the Annapolis Valley Farmland Trust Society as a beneficiary of your RRSP or RRIF or foreign retirement account, you can reduce tax liability on your estate (through a charitable donation income tax receipt for the total amount withdrawn for the donation, thereby enabling you to make a larger donation to the AVFLT with no net increase in the cost of the donation to you).

You can name one or more primary or secondary beneficiaries for your RRSP, RRIF or foreign retirement account, and you decide the percentage to benefit each beneficiary.

Ask your RRSP/RRIF or foreign retirement account administrator for a Multiple Beneficiary Designation form if you wish to name AVFLT as one of two or more beneficiaries of your retirement account.

Donate a Life Insurance Policy

Donating a life insurance policy to the AVFLT can provide a significant gift. You can transfer an existing policy or purchase a new policy and name the AVFLT as owner and/or beneficiary.

Give a Gift of Stocks or Mutual Fund Shares

A gift of stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares can yield a wealth of benefits for you and for the AVFLT.

Donating publicly traded stock [*stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares*] directly to the AVFLT means you do not have to pay tax on any capital gains otherwise due upon the disposition, thus providing a larger gift to AVFLT.

Every legacy gift is an important and personal matter. It is important that you discuss your intentions with your family and receive advice from your lawyer, financial and tax advisors.

For More Information

Please contact us for more information and to let us know if you have left a charitable bequest to the AVFLT in your Will or Trust, or named the AVFLT as a retirement account beneficiary, so that we can thank you and ensure that your gift will be applied as you have intended.

We can also provide sample wording to be used in your Will or Trust, to make a specific, percentage, contingent, restricted or unrestricted gift to AVFLT.

Email Mark Tipperman at mark@crelawyer.net or call him at 902-542-0555.